

# THAT ANARCHIST PLOT.

**Incendiary Capitalist Press Responsible for the Murder of Young Averbuch.—Developments at the Inquest.**

A month ago the capitalist press of the country was shrieking "Socialist and Anarchist" and demanded the arrest and expulsion from the country of every man who looked "suspicious." According to the capitalist idea a man looks suspicious if he has on seedy clothes, or if it can be shown that he refused to vote either the Republican or Democratic ticket at the last election. Such men were arrested and thrown into prison by wholesale all over this "free" country.

Because of this pounding by the press the police authorities all over the country were worked up to a pitch where they feared for their personal safety. In Chicago a boy less than 19 years old and weighing only 125 pounds called at the home of the chief of police to get a "passport." He was fresh from Russia and did not know that passports were not yet necessary here. He could not speak English and held in his hand an envelope addressed to the chief which contained the request for the desired certificate of good character. The chief grabbed the boy, drug him into the hall of his house, and there he was shot to death.

And how the press did shriek "Socialist and Anarchist." They connected the boy (Averbuch) with an organized band of Anarchists with headquarters at Patterson, N. J. They found the place in Chicago where a local group of Anarchists had met and drawn lots. They gave the date of the meeting. Averbuch drew No. 21, which named him as the one to slay Chief Shippy. The police were searching for the man who had drawn No. 63—he being the man selected to slay Mayor Busse, of Chicago. Oh, it was wonderful—the way they ferreted out the "plot." President Roosevelt issued an executive order to rid the country of the "undesirables" and congratulated Chief Shippy on his bravery and his narrow escape.

Averbuch was an orthodox Jew, and Jews are very clanish and considerate of each other. In this they are far more Christian than they who profess Christianity. But the dust kicked up by the press and police caused the Jews to disown Averbuch and Jewish burial was denied him. He was buried in the potters' field as an outlaw.

The scene changed. When the dust kicked up by the press and police began to clear away the Jews wondered why a trained fighter weighing 200 pounds and over six feet tall, assisted by his son and a coachman, would have to kill a weak boy to subdue him?

The Jewish press took the matter up and on the following Sunday it was discussed from Jewish pulpits. A large fund was raised, attorneys employed and an investigation begun. In a few days the Jews were satisfied that Averbuch was murdered and his body was taken from the potters' field and given Jewish burial.

The Jews demanded an official investigation of the killing. At first the police announced that there would be none, but things got so warm that they could no longer withstand the pressure. Through modesty the chief did not conduct the investigation himself, but placed it in the hands of his assistant. It is easy to foresee how such an "investigation" would terminate—for the police would carefully suppress any information damaging to themselves—yet the result is interesting. An official hearing was held last week and here is Chief Shippy's story under oath:

"My daughter, Georgietta, went to the door in answer to the bell. She said, 'Father, there is a man here with a letter for you.' I went to the door, and the young man I afterward learned was Averbuch was standing there. He had his hat on and held out a letter. Both of his hands were in front of him, like this."

And the chief held his hands forward in front of his abdomen.

"I looked at the man, and I never saw such a look of vindictiveness on a human face. It came over me like a flash that the man meant harm. I caught him by the wrists and led him into the hall. In doing so I saw his coat pocket flap, and I thought he had a gun. I called to my wife to come and see if he had. She came and felt his pockets and said, 'Look out, George,

he has a gun.' The man kept saying, 'I have nothing.' By this time I was forcing him toward the table that held the telephone, which stands near the stairs."

All this time the chief was acting out the different grips with one of the jurors. His voice was pitched high and he showed a nervous strain.

"I heard my daughter say, 'Father, why don't you call Foley?' There was a shuffling noise in the hall and Harry heard it and came down stairs. Foley came in and grasped the man's gun hand. The man shot Foley through the left hand and fired another shot at Harry, who came down and grappled with him. I heard Harry say, 'Father, I am shot.'"

"I then forgot that I was a police officer and remembered only that I was the father and that my boy was shot. I drew my gun, a Colt thirty-two, and fired the shots in quick succession. I fired so fast that I think my last shot was fired about the same time as Foley's first. But just after the man had shot Foley and my son he dropped his gun to the floor and grabbed his knife. With his left hand he made a back-hand lunge at me."

"I stepped aside into a small alcove (indicating the relative positions on the police chart of the Shippy home), and so only the partially spent thrust reached me, the knife struck me on the chest, just under the right arm."

"When I fired my last shot the man was running toward the door. He threw up his hands and fell face down."

During the hearing (except while testifying) Chief Shippy sat behind the coroner and had much to do with directing the examination. The coroner ruled out all important cross-examination, hence we are not told from where Averbuch took the pistol and knife, nor how he could get these with Shippy holding him. There was no one present at the killing except members of the Shippy household, and these contradicted each other very materially. Here is the testimony of Shippy's daughter:

"I heard my father call for help and ask mother to see if the man had a gun. I heard the man say, 'I have nothing.' I then went to get Foley, who was just outside of the front door, but could not get in because of the Yale lock. I passed my father as he struggled with Averbuch. I saw a knife in the man's hand. I let Foley in. There was shooting, and Harry was wounded, as was Foley, and Averbuch was killed."

Note that the daughter says when she went to call Foley "I saw a knife in the man's hand." Shippy says "Foley came in and grasped the man's gun hand." Just after the man had shot Foley and my son he dropped the gun to the floor and grabbed his knife." May Strauber, maid at the Shippy home, when called to the stand, testified:

"The first time I saw the gun and the knife they were in the hands of Chief Shippy and he was standing in the dining room. The first time I saw Harry Shippy he was lying on a lounge. The first time that I saw Averbuch he was lying lengthwise in the hall, his head near the dining room door."

I will not speculate as to what Chief Shippy was doing with these weapons in the dining room, nor how they came to be near the body of Averbuch in the hall. You can guess as well as I can.

Corby, a pawn-broker, testified that Averbuch bought the pistol and knife from him between 4 and 4:30 o'clock, Saturday evening, February 29. When the attorney for the Jews asked Corby about his relations with the police he got "insulted" and the coroner told him he need not answer. H. M. Eichengreen, in whose employ Averbuch was, testified that the boy was at work at the time Corby said he bought the weapons. Of Averbuch Mr. Eichengreen said:

"I was led to take an interest in Averbuch through my wife, for whom Olga Averbuch worked as a seamstress. My wife told me that Olga had come to her and said that her brother, Jeremiah, was dependent from lack of work and with a young man friend of his had discussed the idea of committing suicide. The story as told to me by my wife is this: 'Olga come to me and said that her brother was out of work and that he had said that rather than steal or be dependent on his sister for a living he would commit suicide.' I thought that if that was the way the boy felt he had character and that I would see what I could do for him."

"The boy was bright and could speak six different languages. He worked hard and I told him I thought he had a bright future. I repeatedly introduced him to other men on South Water street, but business was slow and they did not have a place for him. I myself, had all the help I could carry and paid Lazarus, or Harry, as we called him, a nominal wage so that he could be earning something."

"I finally arranged with Henry Rheinsberger, of Pella, Marion county, Iowa, to take the boy out with him. This was arranged for when Rheinsberger was passing through Chicago on his way to New York. On his way back he was to take Averbuch with him. He was to take him away, I think, on Tuesday, March 3. He was to give Harry more money and a better chance than I could. Rheinsberger has a large commission house."

Averbuch was killed on March 2—the day before he was to leave for Iowa. Of course his murderers were "exonerated" by a police-selected jury.

On the morning after the hearing the Chicago Jewish Courier had this to say:

"At the coroner's inquest over the dead body of Lazarus Averbuch the jury returned a verdict that the killing of the unfortunate Kishineff youth was justifiable. We recognize that under the circumstances no other verdict could have been expected. The eye-witnesses to the tragedy are all members of Chief Shippy's household, and only they and God know the truth, and God has not appeared as a witness at the inquest."

As far as we are concerned, we feel satisfied with the verdict. The loss of a young life, with all its chances to become useful to itself and to others, is under all circumstances to be deplored. But doubly painful was to us the cry that Averbuch was an anarchist. We felt all the injustice which the false alarm of an 'Anarchist plot' was bound to cause thousands of our people both here and abroad."

"According to the testimony of all those who knew Averbuch, we have lost in him a respectable, intelligent and hard working boy, and we have lost him under circumstances which are as tragic as they are mysterious. We regret his untimely death and condole with his family. But we were much more deeply affected by the sufferings of thousands that were likely to be caused by the unwarranted imputation of Anarchist plots."

"The inquest has established the fact that Averbuch was no Anarchist; that he was a peaceful, intelligent boy, who worked every day and attended night school almost every evening. The inquest proved that he had no connection with Anarchists. This was the point which concerned us above all. As for the verdict—well, we are ready to accept it as it is, if the rest of the community is willing to abide by it."

What steps the Jews will now take I do not know. Of course they could prosecute Shippy criminally, but what would it amount to? He would have on his side all the powers of government and the capitalist press—and what show has justice against such odds?

And the capitalist press that is responsible for the whole affair is not being hunted down by the post-office department as "inciters to violence." Nor is that press telling its dupes what took place in Chicago last week and the week before.

**OUR CHURCH MEMBERS.**

"In a Methodist revival recently closed at Benton over 100 professed religion and most every prominent man in town is now a member of a church. One of the first to join was Marsh Arnold. Then followed James Norrid, the mayor; Dr. U. P. Paw, Clarence Johnson, and Less Harris, the bankers; Robert Stubblefield, county recorder, and Arthur Chrismon, the collector. Even Sheriff Gober was captured and now every county officer is active in religious work."

The above first appeared in a Cape Girardeau paper and has since been reproduced in many other papers. The account is greatly exaggerated as to the number who joined. There were about twenty accessions.

What strikes me as peculiar is that only the names of professional men, politicians and office-holders are given in the newspaper account. Don't the women and the two or three clod-hoppers that joined amount to anything?

## NOTHING DOING.

Why is there no activity among Democrats and Republicans? Here, before during campaign years the pot was boiling by this time. Can't they get the people interested? Something must be wrong somewhere. Roosevelt has had his federal job holders to endorse Taft. The people had nothing to do with it. The Democrats—well they are up in the air. The Washington Post, a capitalist paper published right at the seat of government, sums up the situation thusly:

"John S. Wise is right. There is no more real politics in this country. Everything political is in a chaotic state. Nobody knows what a Democrat is, nor is it much easier to tell what a Republican is. Of course there is going to be an exciting political campaign, and one army will shout 'Republican,' as the English shout 'St. George,' at Agincourt, while the other will cry 'St. Denis,' as the French cry 'St. Denis,' if we may borrow Bolingbroke's apt figure; but neither party will know or care what its shibboleth means."

"Politics is reduced to this—the appeal is to the Pretorians. Both parties promise everything to everybody, and each party is intent on 'going the other better' in confessions on the stump. All that is plain to everybody is that daily the government grows more paternal, more officious, more meddlesome."

"There was some satisfaction in the political combats for the thirty years after the big war between the states. Every man knew what his politics was and why he was a Democrat or Republican. The Democratic party, after the overwhelming disaster of 1872, gained a signal victory in 1874, and of the ten congresses, beginning with the Forty-fourth, eight of them were Democratic. That was when Democracy meant Democracy; but since 1892 Democracy has been everything except Democratic, and the last seven congresses elected have been overwhelmingly Republican."

"Naturally—inevitably—the Republicans, having nobody to fight, no principles to combat, began to make issues among themselves, and that accounts for the present antagonistic forces live on each other. When in 1820 the old Republican party of Jefferson had annihilated the Federal party of Hamilton, the survivor was torn into factions and new alignments were had of Democrat and Whig. In 1852 the Democratic party of Jackson destroyed the Whig party of Clay, and other new alignments were formed of Democrat and Republican. In 1894 the Democratic party mutilated, deposed its chief, and then committed suicide. Since then it has been an unburied corpse."

"A new alignment was had, but nobody clearly sees what it is. Everything is chaotic. ALL THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT SOCIALISM IS BECOMING A POWERFUL POLITICAL FACTOR, and no man can imagine what will be written on the page of our political future of the next decade."

"All we know is that the old parties are dead."

That sounds pretty flat coming from a capitalist paper—but it is the truth. The rank and file of both old parties are "on the fence" and the leaders of the Republican party are scrapping like cats and dogs for the spoils, while Bryan is all there is left of the Democratic party nationally. And, to repeat the language of the Post, "all that is certain is that Socialism is becoming a powerful political factor."

Watch for the fire-works.

## WERE NOT SOCIALISTS.

Henry Rieber, paying teller, and John Young, auditor of the Farmers' Deposit National Bank, of Pittsburg, Pa., are in jail. They are charged with "misappropriation" one million, one hundred and five thousand dollars! Think of that! And they are not "Socialists and Anarchists" either. On the contrary the press report says they were "prominent in church circles."

All over the country banks are being robbed. Scarcely a daily paper appears that does not contain the account of one or more bank robberies. Some are robbed from the outside. The newspapers report such robberies as "burglaries." Others are robbed from within. Such robberies are reported as "misappropriations." The latter doesn't sound so harsh and does not grate on the "finer feelings" of the scoundrels. Yet the man who will betray the confidence placed in him by a community and rob its members, as so many bank officials do, is a bigger rascal than the man who, because of want, cracks a safe.

The local option fight has opened in Cape county. Ben Adams is said to be putting extra boilers under his mud-mill.

## THE NEWS TRUST.

There is one trust in this country that seems to have received little consideration from the trust-busters, and the public generally does not seem to know of its existence. I refer to the news trust—known as the associated press. It is the most harmful combination of them all. When our avenues of information are poisoned, how are we to know the truth?

The associated press is a monster corporation that extends over the world. With few exceptions—very few—the metropolitan papers are members. The fountain-head is in New York—where will be found the fountain-head of all our evil.

In the larger cities of less than one million inhabitants this service has always two, and sometimes three, morning papers. One is labelled Democratic, another Republican, and if there be a third, it passes as "independent." As a rule it has two morning papers and the afternoon paper that is in on the deal is labelled "independent."

In cities the size of Chicago the number of papers is doubled. In New York they are tripled. But the plan is always the same.

The stocks and shares of these papers are sold just the same as the stocks and shares of mines and railroads—except that the market value is not quoted in the market columns of the papers. That would be letting the people know too much. The same men that own the railroads, the mines and the other monopolies also own the news papers and the news service of the country. Experienced men are put in charge to dish out such "news" as will be beneficial to the men who own the stock. If there happens to be no such news, they manufacture it. And yet Democrats and Republicans are led by these papers into the belief that trusts can be regulated. It would be as sane to say that it is possible to license a thief and regulate the amount he may steal.

In opposition to this news service another news system is springing up. It is the Socialist and Labor press. While its resources are limited, yet it furnishes the people with much information that the capitalists do not want them to know. The success of capitalism depends on the keeping of the masses in ignorance of their methods. How the people are responding to the new order is proven by the fact that the Chicago Daily Socialist—started in the fall of 1906 to run ten days as an experiment—is increasing its circulation at the rate of 2,000 per month, while the increase of the Appeal to Reason LAST WEEK was 2,833!

These figures make the capitalists and their stool pigeons at Washington stand up and take notice. Time and again the authorities have had the Appeal on the rack, but each time the paper won out. Now they have given it out cold at Washington that the paper must go. The editor has been arrested for sending "scurrilous and incendiary" literature through the mails. The crime committed by the Appeal is the same as is committed by many officials and citizens. It offered a reward for the return of ex-Gov. Taylor, a fugitive charged with the murder of Gov. Gobel, to the Kentucky authorities.

The Kentucky authorities had offered \$100,000 reward and used the mails in making this known. Why should not the Appeal? Nor has Taylor, who roosts under the protective wing of a Republican governor in Indiana, made any complaint. If Taylor has no kick coming, who has?

But the methods of the great news trusts is the same as the methods of all other trusts. It must crush its rival at any cost, and to do this it has the power of the government behind it—no matter how many trust-busting messages Roosevelt may impose upon congress and the public.

At first but little attention was paid to the new rival of the news trust—believing that it would be short lived. But since the thing is growing and spreading like wild-fire, an effort will be made to apply the simplest and most effective methods—the denial of the mail privilege.

But there will be a lively scrap—for the people know too much. When the Penrose press-muzzle bill which, if passed, would have given the postmaster general the authority to suppress any newspaper that did not suit him, was before Congress, Champ Clark said he received 5,000 letters from his constituents urging him to vote against the bill. Other Congressmen were similarly bombarded—and old Penrose has been sick and about to die ever since. The bill was killed.

## IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

Robert Hunter in Daily Socialist.

For the unemployed in America we have soup houses and bread lines.

In many European countries the workless with families have pensions. Those without families, clean and pleasant lodging houses, with plentiful food.

Every union man in Belgium receives from the city a dollar for every dollar given him by his union.

It was the Socialists of Ghent who first forced upon the community a sense of its responsibility for involuntary unemployment.

Every union man pays a little toward the unemployment fund, and the city of Ghent voted to give an equal sum.

The system has spread to Germany, to Switzerland and to France.

In nearly every Socialist municipality of France the system is now at work, and the French Chamber itself has recognized the responsibility of society for unemployment by voting subsidies to these funds.

This is another result of the work of the Socialist Party in Europe.

## GETTING AROUND IT.

On the first page of last issue appeared an account of the fight between the farmers of Kentucky and Tennessee and the tobacco trust. So far the army of the government has only been used to make wages slaves know their places. Now the farmers are to be shown a trick. They are to stop the bullets they are taxed to pay for. Read this from the Star-Chronicle: "The Gatling guns of Battery A may render the police of Paducah, Ky., in the war on the night riders of Kentucky, Defense Sergeant Wm. E. Baker of the Paducah police force reached St. Louis Tuesday and after a lengthy conference with Chief Greasy went to a rendezvous with Cape Frank E. Rumbold of Battery A. It is understood the battery is not averse to lending its guns for the purpose."

## NOT SO HARD.

It is just and proper for the County Court to appoint Road Overseers, but why they refuse to make the appointment of an applicant who had a petition signed by nearly all of the best farmers of a certain road district, is something hard to understand.—Malden Merit.

Oh, that isn't so "hard to understand." If you will investigate you will find that the rejected applicant failed to stand by "true party" at the last election. Such little matters are always considered when handing out road jobs to ring-ridden counties like Dunklin.

Capitalists are often real good to their employees and sometimes try to make Socialists of them. A few years ago the Tennant Shoe Co. got good and wanted to share profits with its employees. The company encouraged its employees to buy stock and "own their jobs." The employees bought about \$500,000 worth—and then the company failed. The employees sued for the recovery of their money and the court holds that they bought with their eyes open and cannot recover, but are liable for the debts of the concern. The under dog always gets it in the neck under capitalism.

Under the new primary law candidates for county offices must file their nomination papers at the county seat before June 4—60 days before the primary. Nominations are made at the primary, August 4.

Miss Minnie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muelbach, of Cape Girardeau, committed suicide by shooting herself.

**NOTICE**—to land-owners of drainage district No. 4, Scott county, Mo.: All persons owning land in drainage district No. 4 may have the privilege of paying 42% of benefits assessed to treasury of said district—Sec. 8316, Statute of Mo.

Assessments may be paid, when—Any person or corporation, partnership or other parties owning lands assessed for the construction of any ditch or other improvement under the provisions of this article, shall have the privilege of paying such assessment to the county treasurer at any time before the bonds therefor are issued. He shall present the treasurer's receipt therefor to the county clerk, who shall enter upon the schedule of lands opposite each tract for which payment is made the words "paid in full" and such assessment shall be deemed satisfied and shall not be entered upon the ditch tax-book. After all costs and expenses are ascertained, if less than the estimates thereof, the county clerk shall issue to such parties a warrant upon the county treasurer for the amount of such difference.

For further information see clerk of county court.

## THE SOUTHEAST.

At the January term of circuit court in Cape county Bernhart Zschille sued his brother-in-law, Herman Huttig, both of Friedheim, for \$10,000 damages for slander. Huttig refused to appear in court, saying if his brother-in-law wanted his property in that way he could have it. Huttig, it seems, could speak very little English and could not be made to understand the nature of the case. It also, seems that he was a very religious man and put his trust in God. However, when he failed to appear Judge Riley could do nothing but render judgment, and \$3,000 was agreed upon. Mr. Huttig owns 226 acres of good land and considerable personal property. A homestead of 100 acres and the personal property was set aside for him and the remaining 126 acres will be sold to satisfy the judgment.

J. B. Bagwell is a laborer at the wheelbarrow factory at the Cape. He worked hard and made a good living until his wife became sick about three months ago. Three months of sickness will put the "wolf" at almost any laboring man's door. It became apparent that Mrs. Bagwell could not live, and her mother and two sisters—Mrs. S. C. Riley and daughters, of Mayfield, Ky.—were notified and came. A short time before death came this infirm mother, with the two married daughters, deserted the dying woman while the husband had gone to the factory to draw his pay.

Campbell Citizen.—At a meeting of the Farmers' Union of the north district, at Gibson a few days ago, the delegates voted to locate their big warehouses at Campbell. The union had two points in view, Campbell and Malden, and asked both places to make bids for the building, and after three or four months wrestling with the matter, Campbell's proposition to erect and donate the building was accepted.

The papers are making much noise about the Supreme court knocking out the two-cent rate in several states. Don't see why they fuss. Anybody ought to know what the supreme court will do in such matters and if anybody is of the opinion that what will happen in Missouri, just let 'em wait. Corporation judges are not going around "handing down" decisions against corporations.

In Madison county a Mr. Mc Duffie and his son were setting fence posts. The father, 75 years old, was holding the posts while his son was standing in the wagon driving them with a sledge hammer. The son was making a strike the hammer came down on the old man's head, killing him.

Two negroes were arrested by detectives at the Cape and on them were found five new counterfeit \$20 bills. The bills are said to be good imitations and now an effort is being made to locate the print shop. Considerable counterfeit money is said to have been circulated in Cape county.

The Morehouse Hustler urges Scott county to call a local option election because the Sikeston booze joints are a thorn in the side of Morehouse. We have twelve months more of booze in this county before the people can again vote on it.

While playing around a burning stump near where his brothers were at work, Tommy, the 2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Merritt, of near Bernie, let his clothes get on fire and he was so badly burned that he died.

Malden Merit.—A man at Poplar Bluff has just completed a table on which he has been working for three years. There are nine hundred pieces of wood in it, comprising all the wood grown in this section.

W. H. Kennan, a prominent Democrat and in 1885 represented Audrain county in the state legislature, committed suicide at the Farmington insane asylum, where he had recently been sent.

At Cantwell, St. Francois county last week, a bar-keeper named Hulz was killed in a saloon by a drunken customer to whom he refused to sell whiskey on credit.

C. H. Mizell, while working at the Malden Stave Barrel mills, slipped and fell into a vat of boiling water—causing his death.

Two mules belonging to C. F. Weston, near East Prairie, were shot because of glanders. They were appraised at \$25 each.

The governor has proclaimed April 10 as Arbor Day.

Workers, what! You have nothing to lose and all to gain.